

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the instant response. Claims 2 and 12 are cancelled without prejudice herein. Claims 1, 3-11, and 13-24 remain pending in the case. Claims 1, 3-11, and 13-24 are rejected. Claims 1, 10 and 18 are amended herein. No new matter has been added.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendments. The attachment is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

EXAMINER INTERVIEW SUMMARY

On November 5, 2002, Matthew J. Blecher, Attorney for the Applicants, and Examiner Said participated in a telephonic interview to discuss the rejection of Claims 1 through 24 and to discuss potential amendments. The non-mechanical detection of the stylus and/or hinge position was discussed regarding independent Claims 1, 10 and 18. Examiner Said indicated that it was likely that amending Claims 1, 10 and 18 would distinguish the present invention from the cited references.

The Examiner is respectfully directed to amended Claims 1, 10 and 18 herein, which included additional limitations responsive to the Examiner's remarks.

Serial No.: 09/522,274

- 5 -

Examiner: Said, Mansour
Art Unit: 2673

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 14, 15, 17-21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent 5,483,262 by Izutani, hereinafter referred to as the "Izutani" reference, in view of United States Patent 5,756,941 by Snell, hereinafter referred to as the "Snell" reference.

Applicants have reviewed the cited references and respectfully submit that the present invention as recited in Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 14, 15, 17-21 and 23 is not anticipated nor rendered obvious by Izutani in view of Snell.

Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner to independent Claim 1 which recites that an embodiment of the present invention is directed to (emphasis added):

A computer system comprising:

...
a non-mechanical detector for detecting said stylus in said slot;
a switch coupled to said non-mechanical detector for generating a signal to power up said processor, said display screen and said digitizer when said stylus is removed from said slot and wherein said switch is also for generating a signal to place said processor, said display screen and said digitizer into a power conservation mode when said stylus is inserted into said slot.

Claim 18 recites similar limitations. Claims 3-9 that depend from independent Claim 1 and Claims 19-24 that depend from independent Claim 18 provide further recitations of the features of the present invention.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner to independent Claim 10 which recites that an embodiment of the present invention is directed to (emphasis added):

In a computer system comprising a processor, a memory unit, a display screen and a digitizer, a method of using said computer system comprising the steps of:

- a) detecting non-mechanically a user removing a stylus from a slot in a case, said case supporting said processor, said memory unit, said display screen and said digitizer;
- b) responsive to said step a), automatically placing said processor, said display screen and said digitizer in a full power-up mode to power-up said computer system;
- c) detecting non-mechanically a user inserting said stylus into said slot of said case;
- d) responsive to said step c), automatically placing said processor, said display screen and said digitizer in a power conservation mode to power-down said computer system

Claims 11 and 13-17 that depend from independent Claim 10 provide further recitations of the features of the present invention.

Izutani does not teach or suggest a computer system comprising a non-mechanical detector for detecting a stylus and/or a position of a hinge. On the contrary, Izutani teaches a pen-input type information processor including a pen holder and a push type power switch (see Izutani Abstract; col. 3, lines 10-12; and Figures 2a-c, element 3). In particular, Applicants understand Izutani to teach an information processor comprising a mechanical switch for turning the power of the information processor off and on.

As described in the present invention, a method and device are provided for detecting a stylus and/or a position of a hinge based on a non-mechanical detector. Specifically, the present invention as claimed recites the limitation of a computer system comprising a non-mechanical detector with respect to independent Claims 1 and 18. Similarly, the present invention as claimed recites the limitation of a method comprising detecting non-mechanically a stylus with respect to independent Claim 10. Specifically, non-mechanical detection involves the use of a non-mechanical detector, such as an inductive device a capacitive device, an optical detector device, and electrical device, or an electro-magnetic device (page 21, lines 22-25).

In contrast, Izutani teaches a pen-input type information processor including a pen holder and a mechanical power switch. The mechanical power switch is described in great detail as a toggling push type power switch (col. 3, lines 10-12 that comprises mechanical parts. In particular, Izutani describes multiple mechanical embodiments of the push type switch (Izutani, Figures 3a-d and Figures 5a-c).

Applicants respectfully submit that Izutani does not teach or suggest a non-mechanical detector as claimed. In particular, the electric circuitry controlling the power (Izutani, Figures 8a and 8b) require input from the mechanical push-type switch. On the contrary, by requiring input from the mechanical power switch, Izutani teaches away from such operation.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully assert that Izutani does not teach or suggest a computer system that is placed into a power conservation mode when the stylus is inserted in the slot or when the hinge is rotated such that the cover is laid over the display screen as claimed in independent Claims 1, 10 and 18. On the contrary, Izutani teaches turning an electronic device off by pressing the mechanical power switch. As illustrated at Figures 8a and 8b, the power supply (element 12) is disconnected completely when in the power off mode.

As described in the present invention, a power conservation mode powers down some, but not all components of the claimed computer system. In particular, embodiments of the present invention are directed toward a power conservation mode where all devices are disabled except for the volatile memory (page 18, lines 15-18). Applicants respectfully assert that Izutani does not teach a power conservation mode as claimed.

Moreover, the combination of Izutani and Snell fails to teach or suggest this claim limitation because Snell does not overcome the shortcomings of Izutani. Snell, alone or in combination with Izutani, does not show or suggest a computer system comprising a non-mechanical detector for detecting a stylus and/or a position of a hinge. As described above, Izutani teaches a pen-input type information processor including a pen holder and a push type power

switch. Applicants understand Snell to teach retractable pen tether. In view of the claim limitation of non-mechanical detection for detecting a stylus and/or a position of a hinge not being shown or suggested in Snell, in combination with the above arguments, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1, 10 and 18 overcomes the cited references and is therefore allowable over the combination of Izutani and Snell.

Applicants respectfully assert that nowhere does the combination of Izutani and Snell teach, disclose or suggest the present invention as recited in independent Claims 1, 10 and 18, and that these claims are thus in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit the combination of Izutani and Snell also does not teach or suggest the additional claimed features of the present invention as recited in Claims 4, 5, 7, 9, 14, 15, 17, 19-21 and 23. Claims 4, 5, 7 and 9 are dependent on allowable base Claim 1, Claims 14, 15 and 17 are dependent on allowable base Claim 10, and Claims 19-21 and 23 are dependent on allowable base Claim 18. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 4, 5, 7, 9, 14, 15, 17, 19-21 and 23 overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as these claims are dependent on allowable base claims.

Claims 3, 6, 11, 13, 16 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Izutani in view of Snell, further in view of United States Patent 6,100,538 by Ogawa et al. Claims 3 and 6 are dependent on

Serial No.: 09/522,274

Examiner: Said, Mansour
Art Unit: 2673

allowable base Claim 1, Claims 11, 13 and 16 are dependent on allowable base Claim 10, and Claim 22 is dependent on allowable base Claim 18. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 3, 6, 11, 13, 16 and 22 overcome the Examiner's basis for rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as these claims are dependent on an allowable base claim.

Claims 8 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Izutani in view of Snell, further in view of United States Patent 5,049,862 by Dao et al. Claim 8 is dependent on allowable base Claim 1 and Claim 24 is dependent on allowable base Claim 18. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 8 and 24 overcome the Examiner's basis for rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as these claims are dependent on an allowable base claim.

CONCLUSION

Based on the arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1, 3-11, and 13-24 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of these Claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Serial No.: 09/522,274

- 12 -

Examiner: Said, Mansour
Art Unit: 2673

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A computer system comprising:
 - a processor coupled to a bus;
 - a memory unit coupled to said bus;
 - a display screen coupled to said bus;
 - a digitizer coupled to said bus;
 - a case for supporting said processor, said memory unit, said display screen and said digitizer, said case having a slot located therein for receiving a stylus;
 - a non-mechanical detector for detecting said stylus in said slot;
 - a switch coupled to said non-mechanical detector for generating a signal to power up said processor, said display screen and said digitizer when said stylus is removed from said slot and wherein said switch is also for generating a signal to place said processor, said display screen and said digitizer into a power conservation mode when said stylus is inserted into said slot.

Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 10 has been amended as follows:

10. (Amended) In a computer system comprising a processor, a memory unit, a display screen and a digitizer, a method of using said computer system comprising the steps of:

a) detecting non-mechanically a user removing a stylus from a slot in a case, said case supporting said processor, said memory unit, said display

screen and said digitizer;

b) responsive to said step a), automatically placing said processor, said display screen and said digitizer in a full power-up mode to power-up said computer system;

c) detecting non-mechanically a user inserting said stylus into said slot of said case;

d) responsive to said step c), automatically placing said processor, said display screen and said digitizer in a power conservation mode to power-down said computer system

Claim 12 has been cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 18 has been amended as follows:

18. (Amended) A computer system comprising:

a processor coupled to a bus;

a memory unit coupled to said bus;

a display screen coupled to said bus;

a digitizer coupled to said bus;
a case for supporting said processor, said memory unit, said display screen and said digitizer, said case having a slot located therein for receiving a hinge attached to a protective cover;
a non-mechanical detector for detecting positions of said hinge within said slot;

a switch coupled to said non-mechanical detector for generating a signal to automatically power up said processor, said display screen and said digitizer when said hinge is rotated such that said cover is not laid over said display screen and wherein said switch is also for generating a signal to automatically place said processor, said display screen and said digitizer into a power conservation mode when said hinge is rotated such that said cover is laid over said display screen.